

## THURSTONLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

**HUDDERSFIELD:** 

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF

#### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

### Thurstonland Urban District

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1920.

#### To the Thurstonland Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1920.

#### Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

POPULATION.—The population at the Census in 1911 was 2,041. At the beginning of April, 1921, the population of Thurstonland on which to calculate the birth and death rate is given by the Registrar-General as 898.

The population of Storthes Hall Asylum is as follows: — STAFF—

~				
	Males	• • •	150	
	Females	• • •	190 ·	
				340
Ini	MATES			
	Males		726	
	Females		918	
	•			1,644
Approximate Gross Total				1,984

## Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The township of Thurstonland is essentially an agricultural one, and is situated at an altitude of 800 to 900 feet. There are numerous small streams and some wells, which partly supply the inhabitants with water. A proportion of the inhabitants are employed in agricultural pursuits, but many are now also engaged in textile manufacturing.

BIRTHS.—There were 20 births registered during the year, 13 of these being males and 7 females. This gives a birth rate of 22.2 per 1,000 of the population, the birth rate for England and Wales for 1920 being 25.4 per 1,000.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered during the year as having occurred in the district was 161, but of these eight only were of the actual population of the township, the other 153 having occurred at Storthes Hall Asylum.

There were, however, two inward transfers to be added to the number of deaths of residents, one having occurred at the Royal Infirmary, Huddersfield, and one at the Isolation Hospital, Meltham. This brings the total number of deaths amongst residents to 10. The death rate for the ordinary residents of the district works out at 11.1, the death rate for England and Wales being 12.4 per 1,000.

The above deaths occurred at the following age periods:—

THE VILLAGE—					
5 years and under 15 years	• • •	2			
25 years and under 45 years	• • •	$2^{\cdot}$			
45 years and under 65 years	• • •	4			
65 years and upwards	• • •	<b>2</b>			
·					
Total	• • •	10			
STORTHES HALL ASYLUM—					
5 years and under 15 years	• • •	3			
15 years and under 25 years	• • •	5			
25 years and under 45 years		43			
45 years and under 65 years	• • •	64			
65 years and upwards	• • •	38			
TOTAL	• • •	153			

TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.—The inward transfers, two in number, have already been alluded to, and there are 148 outward transfers.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The infantile mortality during the year was nil.

#### Causes of Deaths as Registered:—

The Village.—Cancer, 1; Heart Disease, 3; Phthisis Pulmonalis, 1; Parturition (Antepartem Hæmorrhage), 1; Cerebral Thrombosis, 1; Middle Ear Disease (Meningitis), 1; Acute Rheumatism, 1; Diphtheria, 1. Total, 10.

Storthes Hall Asylum—Heart Disease, 36; Cancer (Malignant Disease), 4; Nephritis (Bright's Disease), 11; Pneumonia, 14; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 14; Other Tubercular Disease, 10; Bronchitis, 1; Colitis, 3; Other Defined Diseases, 59; Pneumonia of both Lungs following Fracture of Thigh, 1. Total, 153.

There is very little necessity for poor law relief. The Huddersfield Infirmary, the Isolation Hospital at Meltham, and, when necessary, the Union Institution at Deanhouse are utilised for treatment.

#### Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water.—The water supply of the district is provided partly from wells and partly from the Huddersfield Corporation, and the district at Brockholes and Scar End are supplied with water from the mains of the Batley Corporation. There is, however, a scheme approved of for the supply of water to the Stocksmoor area from the Huddersfield Corporation, sanction having been granted after an inquiry by the Ministry of Health.

The following are Public Wells within the district:—1 Crangle, 1 Broad Lane Top, 2 Farnley Moor End, 1 Towngate, 1 Ing, 1 Townmoor, 2 Hollowgate, 1 Scar End, 1 Occupation Well, 1 Grange. The public also have the right of using the office well on Mr. T. Norton's property in Hollowgate.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—There are no rivers in the town-ship, and the streams are too small to have any influence on the health of the district.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The sewage from Storthes Hall Asylum is treated at the Council's Outfall Works at Dogley, under the supervision of the Council's Surveyor, and is proving quite satisfactory.

The sewage of the remainder of the district is treated by land filtration and tanks, one of which is situated on land at Top o' th' Hill and one at Town Moor, and the system is quite adequate for the needs of the district.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—There are 30 pail or tub closets, 49 water closets, and 125 privies with covered middens. They are all in a satisfactory condition, and are emptied regularly. In regard to three reconstructed privies, see the latter part of my report.

Scavenging.—The cleansing of closets, privies, &c., and the removal and disposal of house refuse are carried out by the Council's staff. There is one refuse tip on land at the Butts Farm and one at Sinking Wood, but the disposal is mostly carried out by the farmers.

#### Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1920. During the year we have had 15 cases of scarlet fever; the patients were removed to hospital and the houses stoved with sulphur, Nine cases of diphtheria have been reported to the Council as they have arisen. All cases have been well supplied with disinfectants, and every precaution taken to avoid any further cases.

Three samples of milk have been taken; two were up to standard and one adulterated, and proceedings taken against him.

Six notices to abate nuisances have been served, and all have been complied with.

Two new houses have been built at Stocksmoor with earth closets. The same are now occupied.

During the year I have paid strict attention to cowsheds, as per Medical Officer's orders.

I have had two cases of property in hand for repairs. One has been complied with, the other not yet completed.

JAMES BROOK,

Sanitary Inspector.

## Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

There is one cloth mill in the township, which is regularly inspected and found satisfactory. There is also a house where work is done in connection with textile manufacture, and the conditions under which the work is carried on is satisfactory.

School.—There is one public elementary school in the township, which is under the jurisdiction of the Foundation Managers. The building, though not of modern structure, is adequate. The sanitary arrangements, that of the pail system, leave much to be desired, although no direct influence on the health of the children can be attributed to them. The water supply is from the Huddersfield Corporation. Owing to the prevalence of scarlet fever, diphtheria and measles, I considered it advisable to close the school for a period of three weeks dating from May 14th.

#### Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—The quality of milk procurable in the district is good and the supply adequate. As it is one of the milk-supplying districts for the Huddersfield area, no milk is imported into the district.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders are in force in the district, and are adequately administered.

MEAT.—There is no public abattoir, but there are two slaughterhouses; one, in connection with Storthes Hall Asylum, is reserved for their own use, and the other is now only used for the purpose of meat distribution, the actual slaughtering being done at Holmfirth. The meat for the inhabitants of the township I inspect every week, and no action has been necessary.

#### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY—In the first halfyear infectious diseases were much more prevalent than in the latter six months. In the Asylum there were again a few cases of enteric fever, but, as was the case last year, there is again a decrease in the number reported.

I append a table of the notifications received under--

#### The Infectious Diseases Act.

- THE VILLAGE.—Scarlet Fever, 15; Diphtheria, 9; Measles, 25; Whooping Cough, 3; Mumps, 1. Total, 53.
- Storthes Hall Asylum.—Pneumonia, 5; Phthisis Pulmonalis, 26; Other Tubercular Diseases, 2; Enteric Fever, 13; Scarlet Fever, 1; Erysipelas, 4. Total, 51.

Tuberculosis.—The notification of cases of tuberculosis is satisfactorily carried out, and the Tuberculosis Dispensaries at Huddersfield and Holmfirth are taken advantage of.

SMALL Pox.—The number of primary vaccinations performed during the year by me as Public Vaccinator was three, and there were no re-vaccinations.

#### Maternity and Child Welfare.

There is no organised scheme for maternity and child welfare in the township. The needs of the district in this respect are amply provided for by the Clinic at Kirkburton, which serves the surrounding townships, and by the services of the West Riding County Council Nurses in their various capacities.

#### Sanitary Administration.

STAFF—There is one Inspector of Nuisances, who also carries out the disinfection of houses.

The Isolation Hospital at Meltham is available for patients from Thurstonland.

#### Housing.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.— There are in the district 239 houses, 236 of which are of the working class type.

Two new houses have been built at Stocksmoor during the year by private owners under government subsidy, and eight are in course of erection at Oaks Lane, Brockholes by the Council. Complaints were received in regard to two houses at Oaks Lane, Brockholes, the property of Mr. J. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Brook (the Sanitary Inspector) and myself met and went thoroughly into the question of what was necessary to make the property habitable. I have sent a detailed report to the Council of my recommendations, and they have the matter in hand.

During the latter part of the year three new closets were constructed at Tanyard on property belonging to Mr. Smith, The Grange, Thunderbridge. They are substantially built, but before the Council should accept them they ought to insist on the roof being made water-tight, with satisfactory spouting and the inside of the walls being properly plastered. The drainage in connection with this property is not satisfactory, but the trouble is mainly caused by a tank in a field higher up. This tank should certainly be dispensed with.

#### General Remarks.

All matters of importance to the health of the district have been dealt with under one or other of the above headings.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEX. J. KENNEDY,

Medical Officer of Health.

#### TABLE "C," 1920.

#### THURSTONLAND URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

#### Water Supply—

Any developments during 1920? Scheme approved for supply to Stocksmoor District.

Any insufficiency, and where? No.

Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality, and where? None.

#### Drainage and Sewerage—

Any developments during 1920? No.

Developments still needed as to want of sewers? Nil.

Improvement of Defective Sewers? Nil.

Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints as to smells? No.

Are there any sink wastes still needing disconnection?

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

No. of Privies with open middens?

No. of Pail or Tub Closets? 30.

No. of Privies with covered middens? 125.

No. of Water Closets? 49.

Waste-water Closets? None.

No. of Privies re-constructed during 1920? (a) as w.c.'s, None. (b) Other, Three.

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1920? (a) w.c.'s, None. (b) Other, None.

No. of Closets constructed in 1920 for new houses? (a) w.c.'s, None. (b) Other, Two.

#### SCAVENGING—

Any change during 1920? No. Performed by (a) Council? Yes. (b) Contractor? No. How is refuse disposed of?

No. of loads to (a) Destructor, None. (b) Tips, partly.

(c) Farmers, partly.

Is there any inadequacy, and where? No.

Any utilization or salvage of waste material? No.

#### Nuisance Inspections—

Total No. of inspections made in 1920?

Informal Notices served? 6. Complied with? Statutory Notices served? None. 6.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1919? None. At close of 1920? None.

Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1920? None. Abated during 1920? None.

Total No. of Summonses or other legal proceedings? None.

#### REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.

Tents, Vans and Sheds—Total No. of inspections made?

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades, e.g., Fish-frying, Maggot-breeding, &c.? No.

#### Schools---

Schools visited by M.O.H.? The Public Elementary School.

Action taken? Schools closed? May 14th for 3 weeks.

#### MILK SUPPLY—

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts? 3. No. adulterated? 1.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacterio-logical examination? None.

What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows? Expert to be called in by M.O.H. if necessary.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1920? No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district? 46. No. registered? 46.

Total No. of Cowsheds? 70.

General condition? Satisfactory.

Any insufficiency in Milk Supply? No.

Legal proceedings under D.C.M. Orders? None.

Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent? No.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919. Any action? No.

#### OTHER FOODS-

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs Acts? None.

No. of seizures of unsound food? None. Kind and quantity? None.

No. of prosecutions? None.

No. of Slaughterhouses? 2. No. registered? 2.

No. Unsatisfactory? None.

No. of Bakehouses? None.

Is there a Public Abattoir? No.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS-

Any Smoke nuisance, and where? None. No. of Smoke observations taken? None.

#### ADOPTIVE ACTS-

Acts adopted during 1920—(Please state parts or sections)
None required.

#### Byelaws and Regulations—

Any relaxation of Byelaws under section 24 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919? No.

Any other Byelaws needed? No.

#### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES—

What diseases have been specially prevalent in 1920?

Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, January to June.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list? No.

Any influences threatening the health of the District?

No. Any prevalence of Venereal Diseases? No.

#### TUBERCULOSIS-

Inspection of patient's home and workshop? Yes. Is house disinfected? Yes.
When? After patient's removal to Sanatorium.
Distribution of advice leaflets? No.
Action re spitting? None.
Is sputum examined? Yes, when necessary.
Tuberculosis Dispensaries—Any suggestions? No.

#### BACTERIOLOGY-

Is County Laboratory utilised? Yes. Any suggestions? No.

#### INFANT MORFALITY-

What organised effort to control it? None necessary. Any voluntary centres for Child or Mother Welfare? Yes, at Kirkburton.

Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1920? No Infantile mortality during 1920.

#### VITAL STATISTICS—

Births during 1920—Males, 13; Females, 7; Total, 20. No. of illegitimate included in above? None. No. of Still Births (not included)? None.

Deaths during 1920—(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the District without any correction? 161.

(2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated? Males, 3; Females, 7; Excluding Storthes' Hall Asylum.

No. of uncertified deaths (included above)? None.

#### MORTUARIES-

What Mortuary accommodation — (a) for accidents? None. (b) For infectious cases other than at hospital? None.

#### SANITARY STAFF—

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.? £20. Name of Sanitary Inspector? Jas. Brook. Annual Salary as Inspector? £35. Any Assistants? No. Is Staff sufficient? Yes.

Special Reports and Investigations on any Subjects.

Special report on Mr. J. Mitchell's property at Oakes Lane, Brockholes.

#### Summary of Housing Work during 1920.

Total number of houses in district, 239. Number of workingclass houses, 236. General standard compared with that of the Ministry of Health in Manual Vol. I., 1919?

- Obstructive Buildings.—Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890 Act? No.
  - Any building represented by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 38 (2) of 1890 Act? No.
- Unhealthy Areas.—Any representations under part I. or II. of the 1890 Act? None.
- Re-construction Schemes.—Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act? No.
- Conversion of Houses.—Any houses required for division into separate tenements, under the 1919 Act? None.
- Unfit Houses.—Any complaints by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 31 of 1890 Act? No.
- Any action by Public Utility Societies? No.
- Any faction under Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899? None.
- Any scarcity of houses, and if so, where?
- Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and if so, where?
- No. of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1920? None.
- Any special activity in house building, and where? Council building eight houses at Oakes Lane, Brockholes.
- Have the Council promoted, or assisted any Public Utility Society in their district? No.
- No. of new houses built during 1920 by private enterprise (a) Working-class dwellings? Two.
- State-aided Housing Schemes.—Has Scheme been submitted as required by Section 1 of 1919 Act? Yes. Estimated need for eight houses. Scheme for eight houses.
- Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Sec. 17 (7) 1909 Act? None. Any action thereunder?
- Town Planning.—Any scheme prepared during 1920? None. Any scheme contemplated? None.
- Name and Address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910? James Brook, Oaks Lane, Brockholes.